

HALIFAX



Thursday, March 1, 2012

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News worth sharing.



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a teal long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is captured in mid-air with her arms raised in excitement. She is standing in front of a dark blue sofa. Behind her are abstract, glowing blue light trails that suggest motion or signal transmission.

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CLASS ACT
THERE'S NO EGO HERE
FOR LOCAL RAPPER

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'WE FOLLOWED THE
PROCUREMENT POLICY'
NSBI CHIEF DEFENDS
SHIPS CONTRACT {page 3}



SIXTH SENSE MOOSE SCORE SIX STRAIGHT IN VICTORY

{page 22}

HALIFAX

metro



Thursday,
March 1, 2012
www.metronews.ca



News worth
sharing.

"I love the smell of
testosterone
in the morning."

Q104

Inhale...

Alderney. Theatre



► Rev. Wallace Smith Sr. and his son, Wallace Smith Jr., sing Swing Low, Sweet Chariot at a press conference Wednesday morning for the upcoming play *Titanic: The Untold Story*. Written by Nova Scotia actor-director Anthony Sherwood, the play will run from April 2 to 10 at the Alderney Landing Theatre. Story, page 6.

Curtain rising on untold tale of Titanic

Latest offer rejected

HRM council says no to another counterproposal from striking transit workers {page 4}

Cops turn to Twitter

RCMP, HRP nabbing law-breaking motorists with help from social media {page 4}

Where's the proof?

Harper challenges opposition to back up claims Tories are behind robocalls {page 8}

Case made for bottle ban

► Youth present 1,400 signatures in support of removing bottled water from HRM schools



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE



► Bottled water could soon be banned in all HRM schools.

Grade 12 student at Citadel High School.

Their spirited presentation drew a standing ovation from a crowd of about 75 and prompted some encouraging words from the board.

Board member Chris Poole said he agreed with the teens "110 per cent" and even attempted to make a motion to ban the bottle.

In response, chair Irvine Carvery said the move would require careful analysis.

"But I'm quite sure the board will move in that direction," said Carvery, noting that some of the municipality's rural schools use well water and require bottled water for drinking.

Staff will draw up a report regarding the issue.

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H&M

Black avoids committee appearance

In a rare display of mistaken bipartisanship, the NDP almost called one of their own to testify about a \$303,000 un tendered advertising contract.

At Wednesday's meeting of the legislature's public accounts committee, Progressive Conservative MLA Chris d'Entremont made a motion to bring Paul Black, Premier Darrell Dexter's policy director, to testify before the committee.

At issue was a contract awarded to MT&L, a Halifax-based ad firm and Black's former employer, without offering other firms the opportunity to bid.

NDP MLA Jim Morton inadvertently voted with the opposition, tying them with the government's majority. Liberal Keith Colwell, who chairs the committee, broke the tie.

Morton appealed, and the initial vote was overturned. He said his head was somewhere else during the initial vote.

"It was never my intention to support Mr. Black coming before the committee," said Morton.

When asked why, if everything was above board with the contract, Black couldn't testify to that effect, Morton said Nova Scotia Business Inc. followed its procurement procedure.

• ALEX BOUTILIER

Lund: NSBI didn't break procurement policy

- Premier says singling out staffer with connections to ad firm 'sleazy'
- Normal procurement procedure would have taken too long: NSBI



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Nova Scotia Business Inc.'s president says his agency did not break its procurement policy by issuing an un tendered contract worth \$303,000 for the Ships Start Here campaign.

Stephen Lund told reporters on Wednesday that NSBI operated above board in issuing the contract to MT&L, a Halifax-based advertising firm, without offering other firms the opportunity to bid.

"Not at all," he said.

"We followed the procurement policy, which allowed us in this case to do that. We don't do that very often, so we're very careful when we do it."

According to NSBI, the Ships Start Here partnership — composed of government, private-sector and labour leaders — agreed at their inaugural meeting on March 11, 2011, to launch an advertising campaign.

NSBI invoked a clause that allows them to bypass normal procurement policies in the event of an "unforeseeable situation of urgency or emergency." But if the service costs more than \$100,000, NSBI needs to first obtain approval from the province's Treasury Board.

That wasn't the case with the MT&L contract,



► Premier Darrell Dexter speaks with reporters at the NDP caucus office on Wednesday afternoon.



► NSBI president
Stephen Lund

explained NSBI vice-president Lisa Bugden, because she expected the ad firm's work — "digital engagement" through the cre-

ation of a website — would cost less.

When MT&L billed NSBI for \$105,000 on March 31, Bugden said NSBI sought approval from the province's Treasury Board.

The NDP were put on the defensive Wednesday after opposition parties attempted to bring Paul Black, Premier Darrell Dexter's policy director, before the legislature's public accounts committee to explain the contracts.

The opposition charged Black, who worked for MT&L, and the Premier's Office attempted to circumvent normal procurement procedures to fast-track the advertising campaign.

Dexter said Black had nothing to do with the campaign.

"We were of course kept informed throughout that," Dexter said.

"But the work that was done was done by Nova Scotia Business Inc."

1
news



Gadgets in the bedroom are not only affecting sleep; they're also taking a toll on couple's love lives, say sleep experts.
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On the web at [metronews.ca](#)

Tornadoes and twisters laid waste to the U.S. Midwest on Wednesday. Watch at [metronews.ca](#)/video.

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Social media used in catching bad drivers

- Twitter becomes tool for nabbing those breaking laws behind wheel
- Police launched social media sites in 2009 and Halifax RCMP in 2011

 JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Enforcing laws — in 140 characters or less.

RCMP in Sackville received a complaint recently over Twitter about motorists ignoring a three-way stop at the intersection of Millwood Drive and Beaver Bank Cross Road.

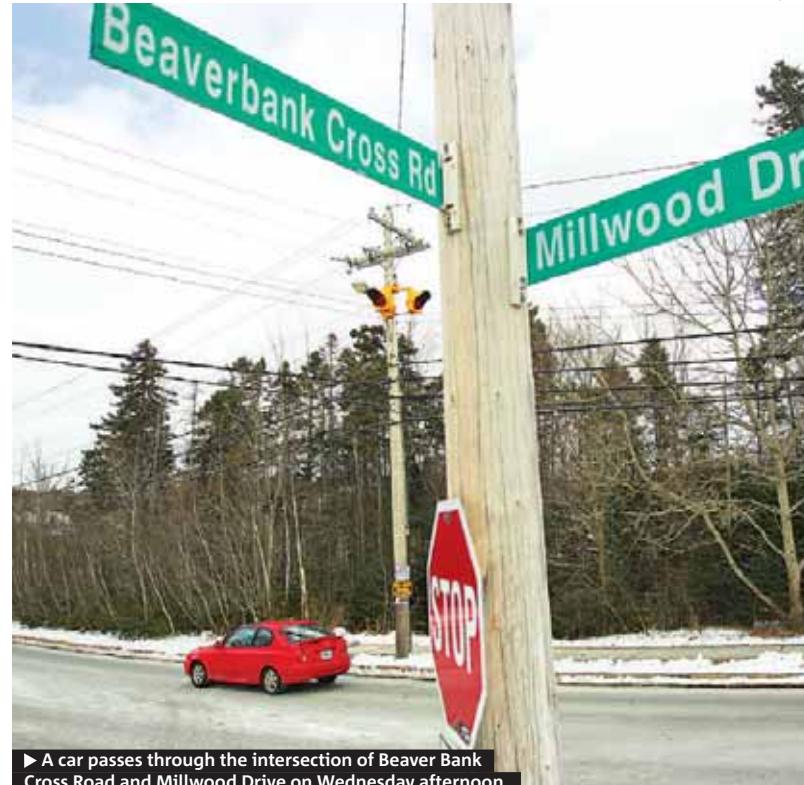
So RCMP officers sat on it in February and they issued 24 tickets and five warnings. Most offences — 22 of them — were for failing to obey traffic signs or signals, but two were for not wearing seatbelts.

For the RCMP, it was one of the first times Twitter was used in this way, but Halifax Regional Police (HRP) have responded to a number of complaints raised via Twitter, said Lauren Leal communications advisor with HRP.

And while HRP also receives tips on investigations, Leal said they encourage people to use traditional methods of reporting tips — by phone, in person or online — as the tweets can be lost among so many.

"If we post a photo of a suspect and we put it out through our social-media channels, we do get a lot of feedback," Leal said.

Both the RCMP and HRP send out information on driving conditions and criminal investigations regularly over Twitter. The feedback they get in return



► A car passes through the intersection of Beaver Bank Cross Road and Millwood Drive on Wednesday afternoon.

"If we post a photo of a suspect and we put it out through our social media channels, we do get a lot of feedback."

LAUREN LEAL OF HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

is enormous, Leal said. Monitoring of Twitter

and Facebook accounts is done by the communications department who pass on tips and other important tweets to police, she said.

But if motorists notice a particularly bad intersection that needs police attention, Const. Tammy Lobb advises drivers to wait until they get home to tweet it.

"When ever you get parked or you're sitting at home, or you have a free

minute and you're not driving, go ahead and tweet it," Lobb said.

No snow, but lots of ban tickets

Hundreds of Haligonians awoke to find overnight-winter-parking-ban tickets on their front windshields Wednesday morning, even though it wasn't snowing out.

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) say they issued 657 tickets overnight Tuesday, with another five cars seized for disrupting snow removal.

The municipality announced during the day Tuesday that the ban was being issued in the aftermath of a storm on Monday night. The ban was lifted mid-Wednesday morning.

"The city makes a decision if a snow event is underway. That was the case (Tuesday) night because they were still cleaning

\$50
Is the amount for an overnight-winter-parking-ban ticket.

up from the night before," said police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "When that happens, we

have officers that come in and they're assigned to ticket vehicles that are found to be in violation."

The parking ban has been put into effect seven times this winter, resulting in 2,481 tickets being issued to date. That works out to an average per-night ticket total of about 350.

● PHILIP CROUCHER

HRM rejects latest transit counteroffer

HRM to transit union: no rostering, no deal.

This message was repeated again on Wednesday as the municipality quickly shot down a new counteroffer by striking transit workers to the one offered up by HRM last week.

The city didn't even consider the latest reply a counteroffer, according to a release.

The new deal was emailed to Metro Transit director Eddie Robar on Wednesday by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508 president Ken Wilson. The union agreed to the municipality's wage demands, but refused to budge on the contentious issue of rostering.

"It's part and parcel, and we can't proceed with one without the other," Mayor Peter Kelly said in the release issued at 5 p.m.

The wage offer to the transit workers included a \$1,500 signing bonus and wage increases of 2.5 per cent in each of years two through five of the five-year contract.

"That puts us at an even playing field in the money," Wilson said earlier Wednesday.

As for rostering, Wilson



► Ken Wilson

was hoping HRM would sit down with them and take a second look at its proposal of a non-rostering format that fills any open pieces of work by not generating overtime.

But HRM is sticking to its stance that rostering is a must-have.

The release also repeated what Kelly told reporters on Tuesday that the final offer — the same one that 78 per cent of union members voted down on Feb. 24 — remains on the table until Friday at 11:59 p.m.

If rejected again, Kelly told reporters on Tuesday, "Basically, we're back to square one."

● PHILIP CROUCHER

Local NDP MP backs Mulcair

Local MP and former federal NDP leadership candidate Robert Chisholm is throwing his support behind Thomas Mulcair to be the party's next leader.

Chisholm, who represents the riding of Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, issued a release on Wednesday saying Mulcair "has the ability to reach out and unite progressives of every single stripe."

The NDP will choose its next leader later on March 23 and 24 in Toronto.

● METRO

Inmate assaulted, officials say

Justice officials in Nova Scotia say an inmate was hospitalized after an alleged assault at a Halifax prison.

The injured man originally said he had fallen when he was alone in his cell at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility last Wednesday.

A statement from the Justice Department Wednesday says he was treated and returned to the facility later that day.

Correctional Services staff began a preliminary investigation and the incident was reported to Halifax police.

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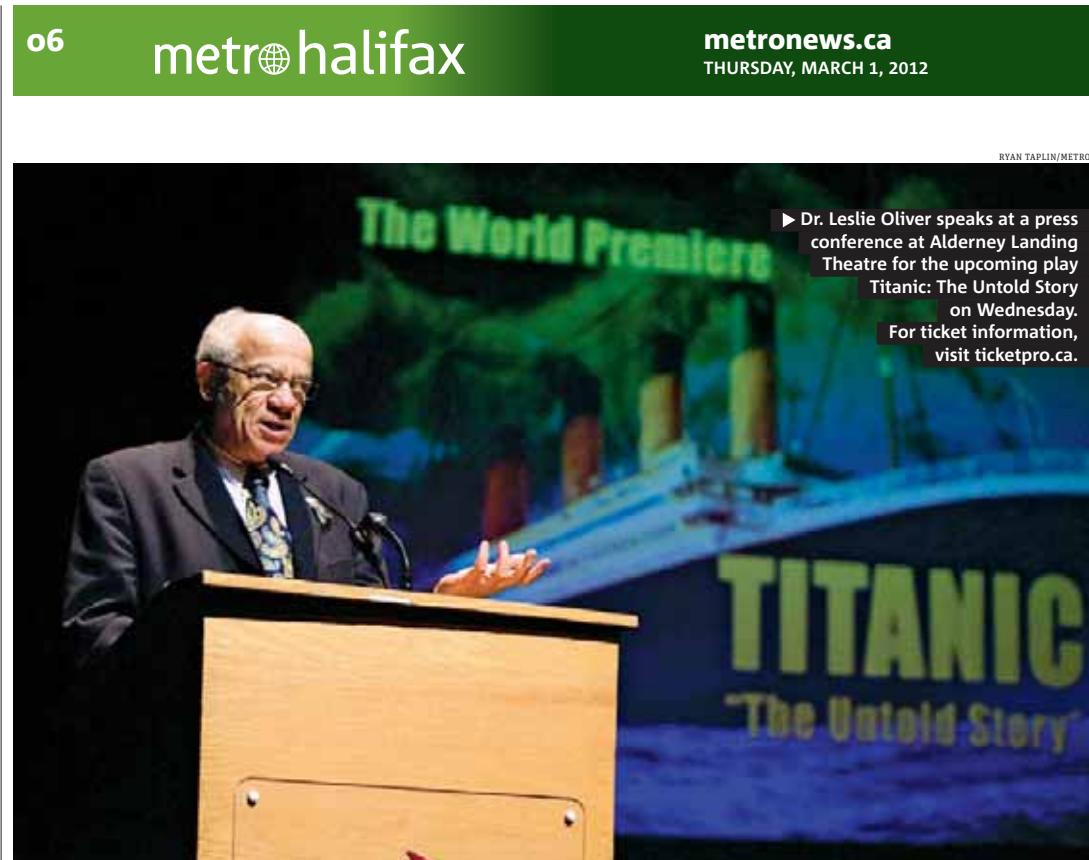
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► Dr. Leslie Oliver speaks at a press conference at Alderney Landing Theatre for the upcoming play *Titanic: The Untold Story* on Wednesday. For ticket information, visit ticketpro.ca.

Titanic's untold story to be told

► Play to tour Montreal, Chicago, London, England ► Local film student, Tara Lee Reddick, is stage manager in Dartmouth, Montreal and London



JENNIFER
TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Joseph Laroche, believed to be the only black Titanic passenger to die, stepped on board the vessel to start a new life with his family.

Originally from Haiti, he had moved to France as a teenager. In April 1912, he was escorting his pregnant wife and two young daughters on their long journey home to his native land when the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank.



CONTRIBUTED

"It's the story of a black man who made the ultimate sacrifice to save his family. It is a story about courage, about love, about pride and respect," said well-known actor-writer-director Anthony Sherwood.

Sherwood, a native of Halifax, wrote and is directing *Titanic: The Untold Story*. The world premiere of the play, which will later tour in the U.S. and Europe, will occur at Alderney Landing Theatre April 2 to 10.

Sherwood, who spoke to reporters by phone at a press conference on Wednesday, said it's an important piece of theatre on "so many levels."

While keeping mum on the play's specifics, Sherwood said it tells the story of Laroche who managed to

get his family into a lifeboat but perished himself.

It will also take a look at another black man associated with the Titanic. Rumour — or legend — has it that heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson applied for a first-class ticket on the Titanic but was refused because he was black.

"I'm not going to reveal if it is true or false," Sherwood said. "We've done a great deal of research on Jack Johnson and the Titanic and it will all be revealed in the play."

Family never reached native land

It was only discovered in the 1990s that, indeed, a black male passenger sailed on the Titanic.

Joseph Laroche was 25 when he boarded the Titanic with his wife, Juliette, and daughters Louise, 1, and Simonne Marie Anne

Andree, 3, according to the Encyclopedia Titanica.

They were leaving France for Laroche's native Haiti because they thought he could find a higher-paying job there as an engineer. He needed more money to pay for his daughter's medical bills, and racial discrimination kept him from higher earnings.

But the young family never made it back to Haiti.

"After the Titanic sank, his wife and children went back to France and decided not to continue without her husband and their father to Haiti, to a country they didn't know," Sherwood said. Laroche's body was never recovered.



► Joseph Laroche and his family.

► JENNIFER TAPLIN

HRSB projects on hold


ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Regional School Board has put off sending a list of capital projects to the province's Department of Education until after a meeting to debate the fate of schools currently under review.

The board voted on Wednesday night to move the matter until after its March 28 meeting when

they'll debate on keeping or chopping several of the municipality's schools, including South Woodside Elementary School and Prince Arthur Junior High.

One of the capital projects includes building a new South Dartmouth school to replace Southdale-North Woodside School and South Woodside, but the board hasn't decided whether to close South Woodside yet.

Another project includes reconfiguring the grades at Bicentennial School to 7-9 from primary to 9, but Prince Arthur — whose students would move into Bicentennial if their school should close — is also still under review.

Board member Gin Yee moved to defer approving the list, saying it would be "putting the writing on the wall."

"Let's let the school re-

Capital projects

- The list of 10 projects must be in the hands of the province by April 20.
- The projects include building new schools, altering existing schools and providing energy-saving upgrades to all of the municipality's schools.

view process finish out," said Yee.

NEW GLASGOW

Steel foundry closed: Reports

There are reports a Nova Scotia steel foundry has shut down after the owner said he ran out of money to keep running the operation.

CTV News and CBC News report that Abbas Jafarnia sent home workers for the Maritime Steel Foundry Ltd. in New Glas-

gow. CTV News said the closure resulted in layoffs for about 20 employees.

This comes after the provincial government announced three weeks ago that it rejected a \$1.1-million loan application by the foundry, saying it was too risky.

At the time, the province's economic development minister said the company lacked customers. It was the second time a loan application by Jafarnia was turned down by the province.

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PM: It's a robocall smear

► Harper accuses NDP, Liberals in Commons ► But who's this mysterious Pierre Poutine? ► And what's the secret of Separatist Street in Quebec?

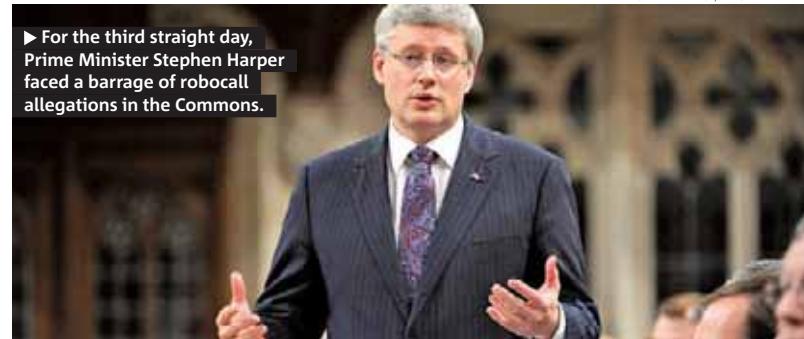
A mysterious "Pierre Poutine" and Prime Minister Stephen Harper were front and centre in the robocalls furor on Wednesday.

Harper said allegations the Tories were behind misleading and harassing calls to voters in the last federal election are nothing but a smear campaign by the NDP and Liberals.

"The Conservative party can say absolutely, definitively, it has no role in any of this," Harper told the House of Commons.

He also added a new element to his counter-attack when he challenged the NDP and Liberals to provide proof to Elections Canada that the Tories were behind the calls.

Elections Canada is investigating reports that voters in Guelph got calls



► For the third straight day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper faced a barrage of robocall allegations in the Commons.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

from a 450 area code number directing them to the wrong polling station.

Phone records show the number behind the calls belonged to a cellphone registered to Pierre Poutine twice called Edmonton-based call centre RackNine Inc., on April 30 and May 1.

The records also show phones associated with Guelph Tory candidate

name was likely used to cover the tracks of whoever was behind the calls.

Phone records show the number registered to Pierre Poutine twice called Edmonton-based call centre RackNine Inc., on April 30 and May 1.

The records also show phones associated with Guelph Tory candidate

Marty Burke and the Guelph Conservative riding association made 31 calls to RackNine between March 26 and early May.

The court document says it is reasonable to believe Burke's campaign did business with RackNine and that the relationship is related to the calls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



LUMINARIES BLAST C-10'S POT APPROACH

Sir Richard Branson and other world business and political leaders want Canada to rethink its stance on marijuana.

The leaders want Ottawa to scrap mandatory minimum sentences for minor pot offences in Bill C-10 and even look at legalizing the drug.

"Tougher drug law enforcement tactics such as mandatory minimum sentencing ... will put a huge strain on Canadian taxpayers," says a letter

released by the group.

"(They) will not have the intended effect of creating safer communities, and will instead further entrench organized crime."

The group is chaired by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former president of Brazil, and includes ex-presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Switzerland, and former U.S. secretary of state George Shultz.

● MATT KIELTYKA IN VANCOUVER

Seven so far will sit on jury in Tori trial

Seven people have been chosen for a jury in the trial of a man accused in the death of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford.

Michael Rafferty, 31, pleads not guilty in London, Ont., to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Tori disappeared in Woodstock, Ont., on April 8, 2009. Her body was found three months later.

Terri-Lynne McClintic has already been convicted of first-degree murder.

Potential jurors have been told the trial is expected to last between two and a half and three months, possibly extending into June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

7

Five women and two men have been selected for a jury of 12 and two alternates.

News in brief

School backed for gun call

TORONTO. School officials who called authorities after a four-year-old girl drew a picture of her dad holding a gun shouldn't be condemned for their actions, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday.

The girl's father, Jessie Sansone, was handcuffed and strip-searched.

Police searched their Kitchener, Ont., home, but the closest thing they found to a firearm was a toy gun. No charges were laid.

"I don't think there's any doubt about the sincerity of the school and the teachers involved that there was a genuine concern," McGuinty said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big winners house-proud

TORONTO. All they wanted was a little money to renovate the bathroom and kitchen, but an eastern Ontario couple who col-

lected a \$50-million lottery jackpot Wednesday say they're buying a whole new house.

JoAnn and Gaetan Champagne of Hawkesbury, Ont., initially misread the results of their Lotto Max win and thought they were getting \$50,000.

When they realized the prize was in millions, they were dumbfounded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Asbestos toll a fantasy?

MONTRÉAL The Canadian asbestos sector wants Ottawa's help to challenge a death-toll estimate from the World Health Organization that says asbestos-related diseases kill more than 100,000 people every year.

A leading industry player says the estimate by the WHO, the United Nations health authority, is an exaggeration based on unfounded evidence.

"Where are those deaths? And name at least 10 of those deaths," Bernard Coulombe said from the Quebec town of Asbestos. "It's absolutely a fantasy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds back space station but also plan cash cuts

The federal government will commit to the International Space Station for another five years.

And that should mean Canadian astronauts will return to space sooner than expected.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis says Canada will extend its commitment to the space station from 2015 to 2020.

His announcement in Quebec City Wednesday came as the heads of foreign space agencies were arriving there for a conference where they plan to discuss the space station's future.

It also came amid heightened concern with-



► Canadian Space Agency president Steve MacLean calls Ottawa's commitment "a major milestone."

in the space community, with the federal government about to embark on significant spending cuts.

The government says the Canadian Space Agency's budget will fall

14 per cent, to \$363 million, with the expiry of previous commitments.

There could be even deeper cuts in the March 29 federal budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian doctor in fraud case

A Canadian doctor in Texas has been charged over massive health-care fraud.

It's alleged the plan

involved bilking Medicare and Medicaid of nearly \$375 million.

Jacques Roy, 54, is charged with health-care fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud. Authorities moved to seize cash in Roy's bank accounts, cars and two sailboats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jacques Roy, a 54-year-old doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas, faces up to 100 years in prison if convicted on all counts.



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► Vladimir Putin

Putin warns of a rumble

► Russian presidential candidate predicts unsanctioned protests post-election will result in violence

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned that his opponents could provoke unrest after Sunday's presidential election, even going so far as killing a prominent opposition figure to stoke outrage against his government.

Putin is all but certain to regain the presidency, but his allegations Wednesday reflect heightened tensions four days before the vote

and nervousness about the protests expected to follow.

"They are looking among well-known people for a sacrificial victim," said Putin. "They could, I'm sorry, knock someone off and then blame the authorities."

Evidence of widespread vote-rigging in favour of Putin's party in December's parliamentary election set off a series of protests to de-

mand an end to Putin's 12-year rule.

The opposition is pushing authorities to allow a post-election protest at a site close to the Kremlin. The government has refused the demand, offering other more distant locations instead.

The organizers have rejected that offer, raising the threat of violence.

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Volunteers to monitor the vote

Until a few months ago, Sergei Rassypnov, a real-estate agent, cared little about politics and Vladimir Putin.

That all changed in December, when evidence of rampant election fraud by Putin's party triggered a wave of protest: Suddenly, for legions of urban Russians, apathy and indifference was transformed into a startling new activism.

Today, Rassypnov is

among tens of thousands of Russians who have signed up to monitor this Sunday's presidential election, in which Prime Minister Putin aims to reclaim the presidency he held for eight years. Most are volunteering for the first time, no longer willing to tolerate a situation in which people have little confidence their vote will be counted honestly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legend. Lost



► Pop music group The Monkees, clockwise from top left, Peter Tork, Mickey Dolenz, Mike Nesmith and Davy Jones, are shown in this 1966 photo.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Monkees frontman dies

Davy Jones, the heartthrob singer who helped propel the made-for-TV rock band The Monkees to the top of the pop charts as an American version of The Beatles, died of a heart attack Wednesday. He was 66. Born in Manchester, England, Jones had stylishly long hair, boyish good looks and a British accent that endeared him to legions of screaming young fans.

Khadr may be headed back North

► Report claims Canadian convicted of terrorism to be moved to Ontario

Is Canadian Omar Khadr destined to leave the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to serve the remainder of his sentence in Guantanamo North?

A report this week in Montreal's LaPresse stated that the 25-year-old Toronto-born Khadr will be imprisoned at Millhaven immigration centre in Ontario, derisively dubbed Guantanamo North.

The \$3.2-million, six-bunk facility was built in 2006 to house non-Canadian terrorism suspects held on controversial national security certificates.

Despite its name, and aside from the isolation, the Millhaven facility is



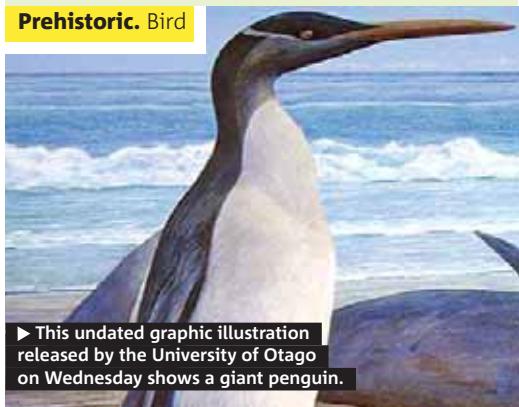
"No one has told Omar, or us, anything about when he can expect to be transferred."

KHADR'S LAWYER, JOHN NORRIS

hardly comparable to the Guantanamo cell where Khadr is now — or many of Canada's federal prisons where he could be held.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prehistoric. Bird



► This undated graphic illustration released by the University of Otago on Wednesday shows a giant penguin.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant penguin on display

Experts from New Zealand and the United States have reconstructed the fossil skeleton of a giant penguin — from roughly 26 million years ago — for the first time.

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N. Korea suspends nuclear activities

North Korea has agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and nuclear and long-range missile tests in a breakthrough in negotiations with the United

States, which is set to provide food aid in return.

The rare simultaneous announcements in Pyongyang and Washington pointed toward an easing of nuclear tensions under new leader Kim Jong-un.

It could also clear the way for the resumption of multi-nation disarmament-for-aid talks that North Korea withdrew from in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges pending in free-baby prank

U.S. police say charges are pending against a teenager in the U.S. state of Mississippi for pulling a prank on a friend when he advertised a free baby on Craigslist us-

ing the friend's cellphone number as the contact information.

Police Chief Don Byington would not identify the youths involved, but told The Clarion-Ledger that the posting was "a bad practical joke."

Byington says the 18-year-old took a photo of an unknown baby boy and placed the ad on Craigslist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Grandpa found guilty of abuse

A U.S. man has been found guilty of child abuse for forcing his grandsons on gruelling hikes in the Grand Canyon.

A jury found 45-year-old Christopher Alan Carlson guilty Wednesday for the three forced hikes of more than 24 kilometres each last August. His three grandsons were eight, nine and 12 years old.

The oldest grandson described secretly asking a hiker to call emergency services after he started throwing up and falling down because of cramping.

All three boys said Carlson pushed, choked and kicked them during the hikes.

Carlson had pleaded not guilty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Clinton backs Keystone XL

KEVIN GLACKMAYER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Former president comes out in favour of controversial \$7.6B pipeline project
- Wife Hillary to decide on its fate

Bill Clinton, the keynote speaker at the Department of Energy's conference for clean-technology startup companies in Maryland, put in his two cents on the Keystone XL pipeline project on Wednesday.

He wondered aloud why TransCanada didn't originally propose to build the pipeline around an environmentally fragile area of Nebraska.

"The extra cost of (rerouting the pipeline) is infinitesimal compared to the revenue that will be generated over a long period of time," he said.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, testifying later in the day to the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee hearings into energy security, was asked

Pipeline Heat

The Obama administration has deferred making a decision on the pipeline until after the election.

► Pipeline proponents cried foul, saying it was a tactic aimed at pacifying environmentalists among Obama's base in advance of the election.

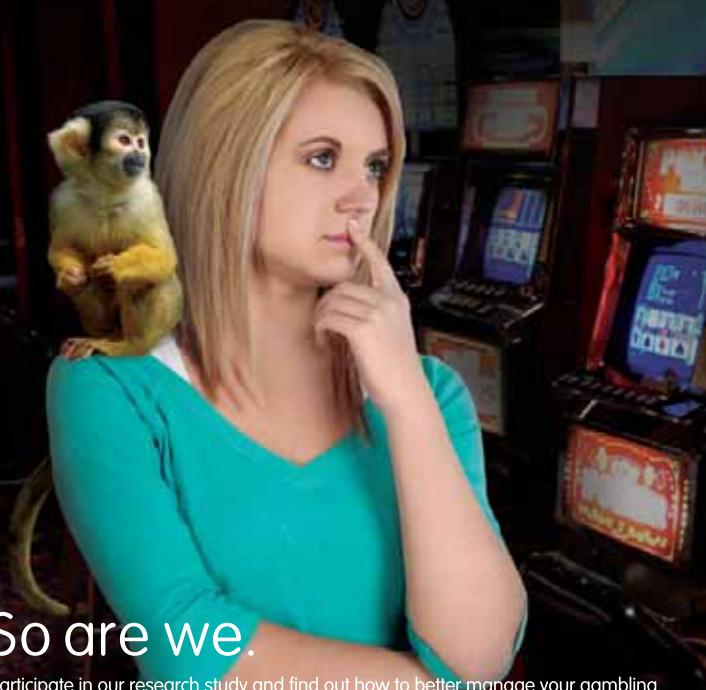
about her husband's remarks. "He's a very smart man," she said to laughter. "But he, unfortunately, is not bound by the laws and regulations any longer of the United States to make decisions that follow a certain procedure. And that's what we have to do."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shares a laugh with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, in Selma, Ala., in 2007.

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News in brief

Flaherty to deliver general budget

PROPOSAL. The federal government will unveil its much-awaited austerity budget on March 29, although Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said those expecting a detailed schedule of spending cuts may be disappointed.

Flaherty said Wednesday the budget will not lay out in specifics where the government plans to find between \$4 billion and \$8 billion in annual savings over the next three years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty restates oil comments

POLITICS. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty tried Wednesday to turn down the heat generated by his comments earlier in the week about preferring a lower dollar to a growing oil-and-gas sector in West-

ern Canada.

McGuinty admitted he was "a bit surprised" by the extent of the blowback from his comments Monday, when he said Canada's high "petro-dollar" was bad for Ontario manufacturers and exporters. "I think I should clarify ... we are very, very proud of the work that is being done by Canadians in every province and territory to strengthen our country," McGuinty told reporters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Portugal shuts U.S. crime case

FUGITIVE. Portugal won't extradite American fugitive George Wright to the United States for crimes he committed there four decades ago. Police captured the 68-year-old near the capital, Lisbon, in September, ending his more than 40 years on the lam after escaping from a New Jersey prison.

A Lisbon court in November refused a U.S. request to send Wright back to serve the rest of his sentence. A judge ruled that the statute of limitations had expired.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storms ravage U.S. Midwest

► At least 12 killed, dozens injured after deadly tornadoes slam region

A pre-dawn twister flattened entire blocks of homes in a small Illinois town Wednesday as violent storms ravaged the Midwest and South, killing at least 12 people in three states.

Winds also ripped through the country music mecca of Branson, Mo., damaging some of the city's famous theatres just days before the start of the busy tourist season.

The storm that blasted Harrisburg in southern Illinois, killing six, was an EF4, the second-highest rating given to twisters based on damage. Scientists said it was 200 yards wide with winds up to 170 mph.

By midday, townspeople in the community of 9,000 were sorting through piles of debris and remembering

"The theatre next to me kind of exploded.... It went everywhere. Power lines are down. Windows are blown out."

BRANSON DINER OWNER

their dead while the winds still howled around them.

Three people were reported killed in eastern Tennessee — two in Cumberland County and another in DeKalb County — as storms collapsed homes and downed power lines there.

The twisters were spawned by a powerful storm system that blew down from the Rockies on Tuesday and was headed toward the East Coast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fishing vessel delays Costa Allegra rescue, official says

A disabled cruise ship called Costa Allegra will spend an extra 10 to 12 hours at sea without electricity, air conditioning or toilet facilities because a French fishing vessel that was first to respond to the drifting cruiser refused to give way to faster tug boats, a Seychelles government official said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the cruise line denied that the tow would have been faster with the tugs and said the disabled cruise ship was always scheduled to reach the Seychelles' main port on Thursday.

The government minister, Joel Morgan, said that the cruise ship likely would have arrived in port Wednesday night local time if the tugs had been allowed to take over.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Murdoch son steps down

► Rupert's youngest resigns chair of News International ► Will stay on as deputy COO of News Corp.

James Murdoch, the executive at the epicentre of the phone-hacking scandal at his father's British newspapers, is stepping down as executive chairman of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper arm.

News Corp. said in a statement Wednesday that James, the youngest son of 80-year-old media mogul Rupert Murdoch, has relinquished his position at News International to concentrate on the company's television business.

The 39-year-old will still remain deputy chief operating officer of News Corp.,



1.6% News Corp.
shares set a 52-week high in New York after the news broke, rising 1.6 per cent to \$20.11 a share.

but the move plucks the one-time heir apparent to his father's global empire away from a firestorm over his role in Britain's phone-hacking scandal.

"James' resignation was inevitable," said Louis Urenbeck, a journalism professor at Boston University. "He either condoned the hacking or was irresponsibly unaware. Neither is acceptable in a top executive of a media company."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► An Occupy Wall Street protester holds a sign during a march toward New York's Bryant Park.

JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupied once again

There was a heavy police presence around New York's 42nd Street area as the demonstration began Wednesday morning. Protesters marched on the offices of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

Navajo Nation sues over trademark

The native American tribe Navajo Nation has sued Urban Outfitters months after the tribe sent a cease-and-desist letter to the clothing retailer demanding it pull the "Navajo" name from its products. The lawsuit filed late Tuesday in U.S. District Court in New Mexico alleges trademark violations as well as violations of the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act.



flask.

The company has declined to comment on the suit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas
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Facebook to integrate ads with content

► Hopes to attract major brands to tell their 'stories' to targeted users ► Needs to boost value before IPO

Messages from brands such as Walmart and Starbucks may soon be mixed in with your Facebook status updates and baby photos from friends and family.

Facebook unveiled new advertising opportunities Wednesday to help the world's biggest brands spread their messages on the world's largest online social network.

Brands you've endorsed by hitting the "like" button will now be able to push deals and other updates right into the news feeds that show your friends' updates, photos and links. These posts could also show up if one of your friends has interacted with a brand, such as by liking it or commenting on a photo.

The changes come ahead

Cautious change

Facebook will collect feedback and test out how its users respond to the changes.

- At first a users may see just one message a day from a brand inside their news feed.
- Users won't see messages from random companies they are not connected to in some way — directly or through a friend.

of Facebook's initial public offering of stock, expected this spring. The IPO could value the company at as much as \$100 billion. That means Facebook has to prove it can bring in real advertising revenue from the

likes of Walmart, Procter & Gamble and other massive brands.

"Facebook ... are not making serious money from major brand advertisers," said Rebecca Lieb, an analyst with the Altimeter Group. "They currently have rather low-rent, shoddy ads on Facebook."

This could now change as Facebook moves to integrate brands' messages into the news feeds of its 845 million users.

Rather than bombarding people with flashy ads, Facebook is urging companies to integrate themselves into what people are already doing on the site — talking to their friends and family, commenting on photos or posting news links. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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Colombia	3 ⁹ _{cents}	Mexico	1 ⁹ _{cents}	Trinidad	4 ⁹ _{cents}
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WHEN IN DOUBT, AD LIB

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



I'm just talking off the top of my head here, but I miss performing improv comedy.

Writing humour is satisfying, sure — especially that special moment when you see your name on a paycheque in a newspaper. But the delayed, distant feedback can make you feel like you have fewer readers than the iTunes service agreement.

In contrast, and as Mitt Romney would tell you, there's no greater thrill than the instant response you receive when you get on stage and make stuff up.

If you're not aware, improvisation is a form of theatre that has spawned many comedic troupes, some serious theatre, certain art-house films and the Iraq war.

Generally, the idea is simply to make things up on the spot, often with an audience suggestion, which in theory can be absolutely anything, but which in practice is always "sex," "horny," "circus," "bus stop" or "spatula."

If that sounds like kids' stuff, rest assured there are some deep lessons to be learned.

For instance, one of the improv rules you organically discover is "Don't try to be funny." Some would argue I've mastered that.

But the point is that humour should arise from strong characters and a well-told story. When you tell a conventional punchline joke during improv the audience reply is a rising-then-falling "aaAAAah" sound, which means "Clever. Not funny. But clever. Now be funny."

Another improv life lesson, perhaps the most important one, is to accept what the world gives you.

If another actor turned to you on stage and said, "Hi, Donald Trump!" then your natural, human reaction would be to punch him in the throat. But improv teaches you that scenes work best if you accept every suggestion — so you scowl in a Trumpian manner and wonder what it must be like to know that even a billion dollars isn't enough for a decent hairpiece.

When you accept what the scene gives you and don't try too hard, then everything that happens is "right," the possibilities are endless, and things naturally fall into place. There's a lesson in there somewhere.

Improv is fun, challenging and, yes, can give you a better outlook on life. I think you should try it.

And if you don't have the energy or gumption or whatever excuse you're using not to do it, just remember what an audience member once told me during an introspective moment: "Horny!"

Words to live by.

.....
Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays



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Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

The Junos are set for April 1. With William Shatner as host, will you be watching?

60%

NO, SOUNDS LIKE AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

40%

YES, BEAM ME UP!

Local tweets

► @Barrow-CJ: Watched a cab driver throw garbage from his moving vehicle in Halifax today, blew right into the front of my car.

► @OneWhoStoodUp: I dunno how crosswalk guards are selected in #Halifax, but "mutters angrily to oneself" appears to be a requirement. #Halifax

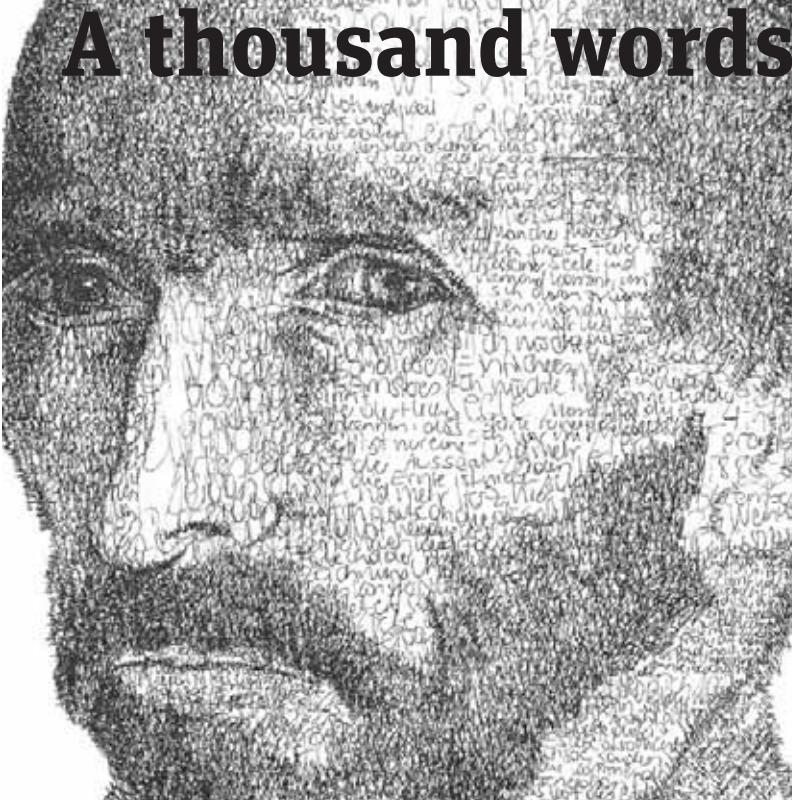
► @PamRobertson: Between the transit strike and gas hike this week, I'm getting really ticked off. #halifax

► @marklewis2009: I seen a robin today in my front yard :) Spring is on the way in #Halifax! Bring on the nice weather!

► @N_boyles: @Hedleyonline, hey my 8 year old cant wait to see you guys in Halifax next week. I know she'd love to meet ya's

► @realTomMurray: It amazes me how many so-called nice restaurants in #Halifax dont have coat racks and force patrons to drape their coats over their chairs.

Daily Zoom



ANATOL KNOTEK

Artist 'writes' famous portraits

PORTRAITURE. This sketch of the great Vincent van Gogh can speak for itself. Artist Anatol Knotek creates faces composed from his own handwriting. Knotek, whose works allude to 1960s avant-garde poetry, has also "written" stunning portraits of Bob Dylan, Pablo Picasso and Nobel Prize laureate Hermann Hesse. ● MWN



► Anatol Knotek

60 seconds

Anatol Knotek, 34, artist from Vienna

What's the idea behind your "handwritten" portraits?

They're meant to blur the borders between poetry and fine art. For me, it's a type of communica-

tion, pairing the act of writing and the art of painting. It's "visual poetry."

What do you write?

A mixture of my own writing and words associated with the person I'm drawing. In this portrait, I used some passages taken from van Gogh's letters. I also ad-

ded some sentences from Theo van Gogh's letter to his mother that reported his famous brother's death.

And how do you write your drawings?

I first make the sketch with a pencil and then I begin the writing process with a permanent felt-tip pen. I use small, simple

words for the details, then larger letters for the overall appearance. It can take about two weeks to do one such portrait.

What inspired your work? Concrete poetry — poetic verses that are arranged in a shape or pattern for added visual effect.

● ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

Boyd keeping it classy

► Local rapper, Classified, handpicked to open for Hedley concert in Halifax next week

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER
METRO HALIFAX



From his meager beginnings recording rough raps on a cassette player to being asked to open for this month's Hedley concert in Halifax, rapper Classified manages to keep two feet firmly on the ground.

"It's not an option for someone like me to have an ego," Classified states in a phone interview.

"I've been running with the same people I've been running with since I started so if I get out of bounds, they'll keep me down quick."

Originally from Enfield, Luke "Classified" Boyd is paving the way for a handful of local talent who, in recent years, have been breaking into spotlight.

"Artists like JBru have been touring with me for



► Classified, a.k.a. Luke Boyd, is one of three opening acts for Tuesday's Hedley concert at the Metro Centre. The others are Karl Wolf and My Name Is Kay.

Details

The event details:

► Information. Classified is one of three opening acts for Hedley, which is performing at the Halifax Metro Centre next Tuesday. Tickets are \$58 and \$43.

10 to 12 years now and it's great to finally see his music connect with people and see it kick off," he says.

As is the case for many local musicians, breaking into the mainstream music business often presents a number of questions including: "How do you define your

sound?", "What's your message," and "Where the hell is Nova Scotia?"

"Forget the Canadian thing, doing the whole 'I'm from Nova Scotia and trying to be a rapper' thing is not what people expect," he explains.

"It's a battle but it's helped give me my own identity apart from all the

rappers from New York or L.A. talking about the hood life."

Classified continues to earn his keep in the music world utilizing the opportunities awarded to him when he signed with Sony.

Artistic freedom within a top-notch studio has proven to be the best

learning environment for him.

"When I started, I would rap over a looped beat, now I'm creating courses and chord progressions and building it up. I having a better understanding of music and know I need to keep stepping it up for every album I do."



Oprah



Oprah Winfrey is bringing her life lessons north of the border for a TV event sure to rank among her Canadian fans' favourite things. The 58-year-old TV legend has added Toronto as the latest stop on Oprah's LifeClass Tour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Musical 'Carrie' becomes the third high-profile re-imagined work in New York this season



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DeVito goes global

► For *The Lorax*, actor took on the task of recording voices in four foreign languages

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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Danny DeVito is becoming quite the multilingualist — or at least that's what it looks like. For his new film, *The Lorax*, DeVito took on the unprecedented task of recording foreign versions of the movie in Spanish, Italian, German and Russian. It turned out to be a much more monumental task than he'd expected, though. "It's a fun thing, but it's time-consuming. I thought it was going to be like a couple of days. I'll do German in a couple days. Right! It's more like a week," he admits.

"This is the thing, I don't speak any of those languages. I speak a tiny bit of Italian, but I did it all with coaches and phonetically," DeVito explains. "What I would do is tackle one at a time. And Universal brought in people from the country because sometimes the lines were very long. And there was no way for me in German or in Russian to get through that entire line without messing up some intonation. And I really wanted it to capture the performance, and I didn't want people to think I had



► *The Lorax* opens in theatres on Friday.

an accent."

The process of recording each language took about five days in a recording studio for DeVito and his advisers, and the biggest lesson he learned in that time was that he should've kept things simpler when recording the English version. "There are about 90 lines of mine in the movie, and some of them sometimes you can't break them up," he explains. "Like if you say to me, 'Coma esta usted?' That's one thing. But if you're saying something like, 'Didn't you see me come out of that stump with all the lightning and the thunder and this and the that? Did you chop down that tree?' Well, I did-

n't think I was going to be doing this when I said those lines back then and didn't spit in the middle."

Normally, animated films get dubbed by local actors for each territory, so isn't he technically taking work away from actors in Europe? "I did some Russian interviews on the phone and different places, and I always preface it with, 'I know that you guys have great actors to do this,'" DeVito explains.

"It was just one of those things where I got it in my head to do it, and once I said I would do it I didn't want to back down, even though I did think, well this time I'm taking a job away from someone."

Awake blurs reality

► New drama has viewers guessing what's a dream

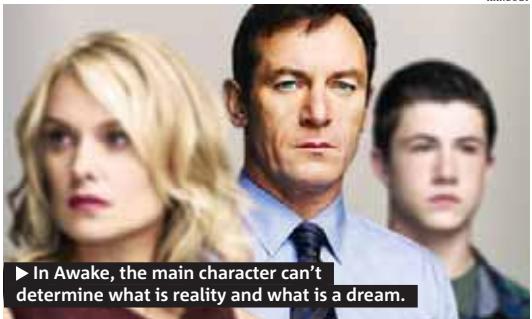
Awake has the kind of intricate, high-concept premise that can test viewers. But that's nothing compared with what its producers face.

Howard Gordon, a master at juggling challenging plots (24 and The X-Files among them), puts it flatly: "I learned nothing, and nothing I experienced prepared for me this."

"This is a vehicle that no one has driven before and has no operating instructions," said Gordon, who produces Awake with its creator, Kyle Killen.

The series, debuting 10 p.m. EST today on Global, stars Jason Isaacs as police detective Michael Britten, a man living in two worlds. A car accident has claimed a family member's life: his wife, Hannah (Laura Allen), in one, and his teenage son, Rex (Dylan Minnette), in another.

The duality extends to Britten's work, where he investigates cases with two partners (Steve Harris, Wilmer Valderrama), and discovers that straddling different realities gives him crime-busting insights. While other TV shows with parallel universes and outcomes have dabbled in extreme explanations — quick, explain Lost again — Gordon and Killen insist this is a (relatively) simple



► In *Awake*, the main character can't determine what is reality and what is a dream.

case of a guy living one life and dreaming another.

Britten and the audience are just not sure which is which. Neither are the therapists who are treating him, with both assuring him that his OTHER life is the dream. He's unwilling to give up the balancing act that allows him to keep hold of both wife and son.

"At the centre of it is the question we all live with as people, which is how do we face loss and how do we live in the face of loss," Gordon said.

The detective wears coloured wristbands to keep his lives straight. Isaacs insists viewers have it easier. When the pilot was being developed, he said, there was concern that the idea was so tricky, his character might need to be bearded in one world and beardless in the other to help viewers distinguish

Awake's tricks

Awake employs a classic trick to allow viewers to dip in at any point: It's what Gordon calls an "old-school title sequence" that restates the concept before each episode.

► "So if you tune in for episode seven, you have the tools to sit down and enjoy that hour of television," producer Howard Gordon says.

"For an idea like this, clarity is your friend and you want to make the barrier as low as possible."

between them. "But my daughter, who's 5, told me the story in three sentences," Isaacs recalled. "So I told the producers, 'We don't need to worry.'"

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► Lindsay Lohan

'I will not let anyone down'

Lindsay Lohan is mounting her comeback, starting with a stint hosting Saturday Night Live this week, and she knows there's a lot at stake.

"I will not let anyone down, especially myself," she says in an interview with the Today Show, starkly contrasting her last visit to the show, during which she denied having any problems at all.

"I wasn't as comfortable with myself then. I think it was a fear factor that I had about what was really going on. And, you know, I had to get that wake-up call."

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Snooki pregnant?

► MTV went into crisis mode after hearing news: Source

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Though she recently denied it, many news organizations are now reporting that Nicole "Snooki"

Polizzi is indeed three months pregnant with boyfriend Jionni LaVelle's baby.

The Jersey Shore star is reportedly looking to make the most of the announcement — and has even brokered a deal for a cover story with Us Weekly.

Apparently, Snooki is looking to use her pregnancy to become "the next



► Snooki

Kourtney Kardashian," a source tells Page Six.

But reps at MTV aren't as excited, since Snooki is currently filming a Jersey Shore spin-off chronicling her hard-partying lifestyle.

"MTV went into crisis mode after they found out," the source says. "They're trying to hide it because it would greatly affect the creative direction of the show."

At first, I laughed at this because, well, "creative direction" and Jersey Shore spin-off do not go together.

But then it makes sense: MTV's programming is filled with a million bad parenting reality shows, from Teen Mom to 16 and Pregnant. Even they probably loathe to air a segment of Snooki taking her baby for its first spray tan.

Ben and Jen welcome third child

Jennifer Garner gave birth to a son Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif., according to People magazine. It's the third child and first boy for Garner and husband Ben Affleck, who also have daughters Violet, 6, and Seraphina, 3.

Garner previously said



► Affleck and Garner

that they knew the gender of the baby ahead of time but weren't sharing that information.

"It would be so weird to have a boy," she told Ellen DeGeneres during an interview last year.

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knew about the project and was excited to see where it would lead," a source says.

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Celebrity tweets



Favor for me: if you liked Wanderlust, please email 100 friends and tell them to go see it. As thanks I'll send you a Blue 2009 Honda Civic.



@M_E_Winstead
I just cut my hand with texturizing shears and full on passed out. Great way to start the day!

YES we are a little behind in the Winkler household but ...BREAKING BAD..HAS OVER TAKEN ME now that's tv

@Joan_Rivers
Both Jennifer Lopez and I have experienced nipple slips at the Oscars. The only difference is that mine was peeking out of an open-toe shoe.

Who will play Whitney in film?

Plans are reportedly already underway for a movie about Whitney Houston's life, according to the Daily Mail.

Producer Clive Davis is behind the project, and while Jennifer Hudson, Vivica Fox and Jordin Sparks are reportedly on the list for the lead role, Davis is said to have his eye on Rihanna to play Houston.

And lest it seems like Davis is trying to cash in on his friend's death, the film was reportedly already being developed before Houston passed away last month.

"Whitney



► Whitney Houston

knew about the project and was excited to see where it would lead," a source says.

• METRO

3 life

Star power



It was announced this week that Sir Elton John will be headlining Fashion Cares, the silver anniversary fundraising gala, to be held on September 9, 2012 at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto.

Chaired by Michael King and David Furnish, with cosmetics powerhouse MAC Viva Glam returning as title sponsor, the event will feature an intimate dinner, a retrospective of the past 25 years of Fashion Cares, and a live show performance by Sir Elton John and other high profile, international musicians.

METRO



Guy Laroche designer shows gem-inspired collection, and no skin, in Paris.

► Peter Philips, global creative director of Chanel makeup, creates nail and lip colours that instantly sell out and spark wait lists ► Heed his advice for a natural, beautiful look

You too can nail Chanel chic



**ROMINA
MCGUINNESS**
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

The mouth vs. the eyes

"Being beautiful is as tough as you want to make it, but it doesn't have to be all about the pressure. There's no such thing as an ideal face. Who can measure that? A perfect face is one that expresses confidence and is happy with itself. When I speak to somebody I'm always drawn to their mouth, maybe that's because it's more comfortable than looking someone in the eyes. Also with the eyes, which eye do you look at? But all women should have an eyelash curler. This also applies to women who don't wear makeup. One pinch to the lashes can work miracles as it opens up your eyes and makes you look fresh and awake. Add some mascara and you're ready to go."



► Peter Philips

The face: The fine balance

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup,

just as it is to wear too little. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence. Something that always looks wrong is not blending your foundation in properly so that you can see the line between the face and the neck. It's so easy to avoid. Blend it out with your fingers or check the lighting in your bathroom."

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little makeup. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence."

PETER PHILIPS

Don't forget the inside

"Every phase of your life has beauty in it. We all want youth but at some point we have to realize that we're getting older and it's not all about foundation or mascara. If

you eat and live wrong it will have an impact on your looks. You know the tricks: eat more vegetables, stop smoking, drink water and cut back on alcohol."

The nails: introducing April, May and June.

"The Le Vernis shades are anticipated not because of me but because they're Chanel. I have the advantage that I can link my creations with the fashion show, it gives them a reason to exist. May is pinky and girly and June has a beachy feel to it. It took 24 try-outs in the lab before we got the right shade for Le Vernis in June."

What's trending?

Trends, no. Seduction, yes.

► "I don't create trends; it's the women who wear them that create them. My challenge is to develop shades that will seduce these women into buying them and the only way to seduce a woman is by literally seducing her. I chose spring horizons; sunset and sunrise as it can be the most amazing moment of the day. I was afraid it would be a bit kitschy, mellow and corny, but it's also very beautiful. She can't be intimidated by the colours or feel like she's being forced into wearing something. She needs to stand in front of the counter or be reading a magazine and say, 'that's a shade I want to wear.'"

Jeanne Space



@Jeanne_Beker: 8 days of shows to cover in Paris. A fantasy for some... A lot of work for me! But not complaining. What's YOUR ultimate Paris fantasy?

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

► @Sarahohom: "Audrey Hepburn in Funny Face" would be mine! #parisfantasy

► @Jeanne_Beker: Oh yeah! To be a hot young model falling in love with a cool photographer... What a gorgeous cliche!

► @Enriqueymylove16: live there go to champs elysees every weekend for shopping : get to know people from there explore the fashion world #dream ♥

► @Mymsie7: wow! I want to get to visit every beautiful spot in the city! And taste everything there is to taste! I want to go next year:)

► @KendalLo: Hands down Paris at Christmas & NYE. Long meals inside warm Parisian restaurants, lots of wine, good coffee and shopping.

► @Jeanne_Beker: Oh YEAH! Nothing like guilt-free gorging in the City of Light! Worth every calorie!!!



► View from mon petit chambre. Always stay in same charming St. Germain hotel in same sweet room: Home.



More sports



LOWER SACKVILLE'S JAMES SHEPPARD IS FINALLY BACK ON THE ICE AFTER MISSING ALMOST TWO FULL YEARS WITH A KNEE INJURY. THE 224-GAME NHL VETERAN RETURNED TO ACTION ON WEDNESDAY, SUITING UP FOR THE AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE'S WORCESTER SHARKS IN A 2-1 LOSS TO THE CONNECTICUT WHALE IN HARTFORD. SHEPPARD, WHO LAST PLAYED FOR THE MINNESOTA WILD ON APRIL 8, 2010, FIRED FOUR SHOTS ON GOAL AND TOOK A MINOR PENALTY. HE'S ON A CONDITIONING LOAN FROM THE SAN JOSE SHARKS.

Herd tops Olympiques with surge in second

► Win puts Halifax four points out of fifth place ► Fucale breaks win record for 16-year-old goaltenders ► Mooseheads improve to 7-2-1 in past 10 games



MATTHEW
WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Seven minutes made all the difference for the Halifax Mooseheads on Wednesday night.

The Mooseheads erupted for four goals in a six-minute, 43-second span in the second period to recover from a 2-0 deficit and defeat the host Gatineau Olympiques 6-2 at Centre Robert Guertin.

The Mooseheads, kicking off a three-game road trip, continued their hot play, improving to 7-2-1 over the past 10 games.

"It's always a hard place to play and we had a slow start," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "After our first goal, we really took control of the game and played better as a unit of five. We had scoring chances and we buried them."

Brent Andrews started the run of six unanswered goals with his ninth of the season at 7:16. Defenceman Konrad Abelshauser and wingers Alexandre Grenier and Brad Cuzner followed in rapid succession.

It was a night of balanced offence, as Darcy Ashley and Luca Ciampini scored in the third period to make it six different goal-scorers from four different lines.

"Everybody chipped in and really played hard," Ducharme said.



► Alexandre Grenier's goal at 12:29 of the second period stood as the winner in Halifax's 6-2 win over Gatineau.

The Mooseheads outshot the Olympiques 15-10 in the second and 33-23 overall.

Mooseheads rookie goaltender Zach Fucale made 21 saves in a second-star performance to break Olivier Roy's QMJHL record for wins by a 16-year-old with his 28th of the season.

"He deserves all the credit he gets," Ducharme said. "He's getting even better as the weeks go by. We still have eight games to play — how many more wins can he get? It might become a pretty hard record to beat."

Ashley, Ciampini, Grenier and Andrews recorded assists for two-point nights,

while Abelshauser was the first star with a plus-2 rating.

The sixth-place Mooseheads (35-19-6) now have 76 points and are four points behind the fifth-place Victoriaville Tigres. They visit the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies for games on Friday and Saturday.



► Tyrone Levett

Rainmen trio voted NBL Canada all-stars

Three members of the Halifax Rainmen will be on the Metro Centre hardwood for the inaugural National Basketball League of Canada all-star game.

Guards Joey Haywood and Taliak Brown and forward Tyrone Levett were among the top 20 in fan voting for the two-day event scheduled for March 31 and April 1 after more than 213,000 casting ballots.

Levett (15.1 points per game), Haywood (13.6) and Brown (12.9) are second, third and fourth in Rainmen scoring. Top point producer Lawrence Wright (16.1) didn't make the cut.

"We're pleased with the calibre of players who will be bringing their talents to Halifax for this exciting event," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston.

Haywood, a Vancouver native who is one of six Canadians among the top 20, will be a captain for the event along with London Lightning guard Eddie Smith. Haywood and Smith will select the two 10-man all-star squads via a draft on Thursday at noon.

Also cracking the top 20 is former Rainmen guard Trayvon Lathan, who now plays for Moncton.

The head coaches of the NBL Canada finalists will coach the all-star teams.

● MATTHEW WUEST

the CIS championship against McGill on Friday.

● METRO

Sports in brief

SMU's Smit an all-Canadian

CIS VOLLEYBALL. Kerri Smit of the Saint Mary's Huskies was named a Canadian Interuniversity Sport first-team women's volleyball all-Canadian on Wednesday, while Maggie Li of Dalhousie was named to the all-rookie team. Saint Mary's opens

Dal, St. FX to clash for title

AUS HOCKEY. The Atlantic University Sport women's hockey championship opens Thursday at Memorial Arena. The host and sixth-seeded Dalhousie Tigers face the No. 1 St. Francis Xavier X-Women at 3 p.m. Sunday's final will be at 2 p.m. ● METRO

Hockey Huskies a loss away from elimination

The Saint Mary's Huskies are on the ropes in enemy territory.

The Huskies were mopped up 6-1 by the host Moncton Aigles Bleus on Wednesday night in Game 3 of the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey semifinal and now trail the best-



of-five series 2-1. The Aigles Bleus, who

host Game 4, can eliminate the Huskies on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The winner of the series not only qualifies for the AUS final against the UNB Varsity Reds, it also clinches a berth at the CIS University Sport Cup from March 22 to 25 in Fredericton, N.B. ● METRO

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Ready for 'the next level'

► Jays' Romero on rise after bumpy road to big leagues ► Left-hander now undisputed staff ace

It was a challenging climb to the top for Blue Jays pitcher Ricky Romero.

Expectations were high for the first-round pick, who toiled in the minors for years before breaking through at the major-league level in 2009.

The team was patient with the now 27-year-old left-hander and it paid off.

"Now that I look back at it, I'm thankful that I went through those times," Romero said Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla. "Being in double-A for two-and-a-half years, I learned a lot about myself as a person.... I was able to learn to deal with failure."

There were plenty of trying times after the Los Angeles native was taken sixth overall in the 2005 amateur draft. He struggled with a 16-23 record in Toronto's minor-league system.

But the Blue Jays felt he was ready for a look in 2009 and in 29 starts as a rookie, Romero posted a solid 13-9 mark with a 4.30 earned-run average.

"When I got to the big leagues, I wasn't going to let one bad start get to me or get to my head," Romero said. "It was just move on to the next one."

Manager John Farrell said it's not uncommon for first-rounders to face challenges in the minors.

"Everyone assumes they're going to get to the big leagues as a first-round pick so when they finally get there, they somewhat relax and say, 'OK, I've made it to where



► Jays left-hander Ricky Romero pitches in Tuesday's live batting practice at spring training in Dunedin, Fla.

my draft number has said I should be," he said.

"And then things come out."

Romero continued to make strides in 2010, going 14-9 and trimming his ERA to 3.73. He was signed to a long-term contract that summer and Romero's ascent to staff ace was complete when he was named the opening day starter last year.

Romero went on to post a 15-11 record with a 2.92

Early arms race

Ricky Romero anchors a starting rotation that is still very much unsettled.

► Brandon Morrow is likely the No. 2 starter with Brett Cecil, Henderson Alvarez and Dustin McGowan early

ERA in 2011, his best campaign yet.

The six-foot, 215-pound left-hander often jokes

favourites for the next three slots.

"We need everybody to have a career year," said Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos. "We just need everybody to be solid and play to the ability that they have, and I think we're going to have a great team."

around with teammates and management types alike, spitting sunflower seeds with abandon wher-

ever he goes. Romero likes to keep the mood rather light but he is serious when he needs to be and is ready to be the staff's workhorse.

A big grin spreads across his face when asked about the upcoming season.

"You see the determination and the work that we're putting in," he said. "We're ready to take it to the next level."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Woods' agent slams ex-swing coach's book

Tiger Woods' agent lashed out Tuesday against Hank Haney's book, saying his "armchair psychology" about Woods was "ridiculous" and that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion.

Haney's book about his six years as Woods' coach is titled *The Big Miss*. It is to go on sale March 27.

Golf Digest began releasing small excerpts Tuesday on its tablet applications and on its website. Haney's book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine who has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the years.

In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinney, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more difficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

"There was more urgency and less fun.... He never mentioned Nicklaus' record, but it started to weigh more heavily at every major," the excerpt said.

He also said Woods was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

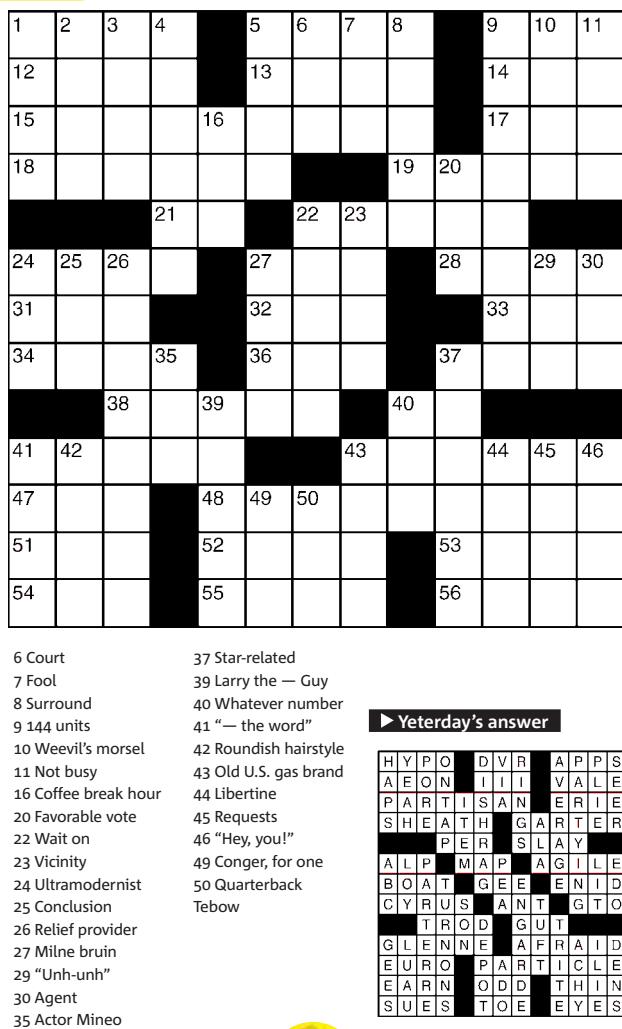
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1 Airport schedule
data (Abbr.)
5 Mop the deck
9 Kimono closer
12 Anger
13 Sit for a photo
14 Pal of Wynken and
Blynken
15 Ancient Mariner's
burden
17 Right angle
18 Theatrical
19 American emblem
21 Performing
22 Mythical lecher
24 Geek
27 — capita
28 Billions of years
31 Away from WSW
32 Raw rock
33 Potential syrup
34 Probability
36 Eggs
37 Wan
38 Hidden supply
40 — usual
41 One of The Don-
ald's exes
43 Snare
47 Venusian vessel?
48 Colonial sewer
51 — Doubtfire
52 Island neckwear
53 Arctic diving birds
54 "Mayday!"
55 Ticklish Muppet
56 For fear that
Down
1 Historic periods
2 Pinball no-no
3 Actress Jessica
4 Neptune or Posei-
don
5 Nimble



6 Court 37 Star-related
7 Fool 39 Larry the — Guy
8 Surround 40 Whatever number
9 144 units 41 — the word"
10 Weevil's morsel 42 Roundish hairstyle
11 Not busy 43 Old U.S. gas brand
16 Coffee break hour 44 Libertine
20 Favorable vote 45 Requests
22 Wait on 46 "Hey, you!"
23 Vicinity 49 Conger, for one
24 Ultramodernist 50 Quarterback
25 Conclusion 52 Tebow
26 Relief provider 53

Yesterday's answer

H	Y	P	O	D	V	R	A	P	P	S	
A	E	O	N	I	I	I	V	A	L	E	
P	A	R	T	I	S	A	E	R	I	E	
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A	L	P	M	A	P	A	G	I	L	I	
B	O	A	T	G	E	E	E	N	I	D	
C	Y	R	U	S	A	N	T	G	T	O	
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E	A	R	N	O	D	T	H	I	N	S	
S	U	E	S	T	O	E	E	Y	E	S	

Yesterday's answer ►

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metroneWS.ca

Aries March 21-April 20

If you can't get excited about what you have planned to do today then, obviously, you should be doing something else.

Taurus April 21-May 21

All those worries and woes you have been carrying around with you suddenly seem irrelevant.

Gemini May 22-June 21

You can be quite sensitive to mood changes in your environment and that skill will be useful today.

Cancer June 22-July 22

A surge of negative cosmic activity makes you believe that certain people are against you. They're not. You need to lighten up and smile.

Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Stop trying to control everything that happens and let fate guide you. That applies to all areas but in particular to joint financial issues.

Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Today's cosmic influences will encourage you to be open about your feelings — but not so open that your heart rules your head entirely.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

If someone approaches you with an idea or proposal today, don't turn them down flat. Listen.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Keep routine tasks to a minimum and don't worry if you fall behind in your schedule. Be flexible.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Others may be hopping from one foot to the other in anger today but you cannot be bothered.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

It's good that you don't take what others believe as a personal insult to your own values. Be open.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Something is going to happen whether you like it or not, and you know it. So why are you still fighting the future? Adapt yourself.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Have you been making use of your skills? If you are honest, you will admit you have fallen a bit short lately. ■ SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

	5	7		2					
2					1	7			
4	3				9	8			
6		3	2				9		
				7					
8					5	6	4		
7	9						6		
			3	6	2				

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metroneWS.ca/kiss.

YOU, All of my life I have tried to find someone who could see the world through my eyes. I thought I walked this earth alone until I met you. M

Lady Gaga
Thank you for always being there and strong for us Little Monsters. You give me hope and courage. Congratulations on the Born This Way Foundation!!! PAWS UP! LADY ALA

meme, when i first saw you walk by me i thought to myself " i need you a.s.a.p over there" but i was to shy of a guy because you were to much and so was work. so here i am today giving you a kiss; TC!!!
BILLY

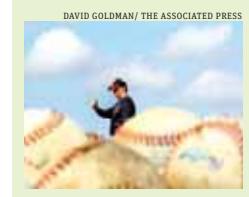
Doctor what can i do? why does it have to be like that?
CURE ME

5	6	8	3	7	2	4	1	9
2	9	3	1	4	8	5	6	7
4	7	1	6	5	9	3	2	8
6	4	2	9	8	3	7	5	1
3	8	5	7	1	6	9	4	2
7	1	9	4	2	5	6	8	3
9	2	6	5	3	1	8	7	4
8	5	7	2	9	4	1	3	6
1	3	4	8	6	7	2	9	5

Yesterday's answer ►

Caption contest

MICHAEL CONROY / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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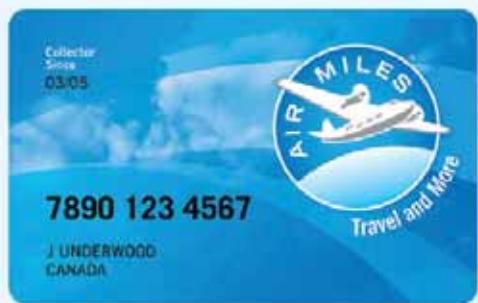
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